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enclosed. Please charge any additional fee required for the extension, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 06-1205.

II. This is in response to the Office Action dated July 12, 2000, the period for reply having been extended by the above petition and payment of the extension fee. Please consider the following remarks.

Remarks

The claims are 1-64, with claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 33, 41 and 49-64 being independent. Claims 9-24, 33-48 and 57-64 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being drawn to nonelected subject matter. Reconsideration of the present claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 25-32 and 49-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bohland. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. In fact, Applicants submit that Bohland is not prior art to the present invention. The present invention is entitled at least to an invention date of February 5, 1998, the date on which the first of the two Japanese applications upon which the present case claims priority was filed. Hence, Bohland, filed on July 16, 1998, was not filed before the present invention was



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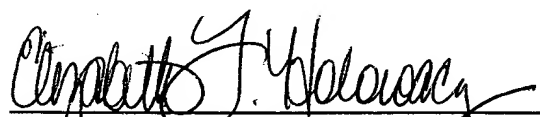
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Invented by the Applicants. Applicants herewith enclose a certified translation of each of the two Japanese applications upon which the present case claims priority, namely JP 11-024968 and 10-024370. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §102 rejection.

In view of the foregoing remarks, favorable reconsideration and passage to issue of the present case is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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